

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 3, 2009

Protect America's Food Supply!
Grant FDA the Tools Needed to Prevent and Respond to Food Safety Incidents

Become an Original Cosponsor the Safe FEAST Act

Dear Colleague:

Continued incidences of food-borne illness call for Congress to take action to maintain the safety and security of our nation's food supply. To address vulnerabilities in our nation's ability to adequately safeguard our food supply, we will introduce shortly The Safe Food Enforcement, Assessment, Standards and Targeting Act, Safe FEAST Act, comprehensive food safety legislation to strengthening preventative measures with new science-based food safety requirements, while expanding the tools of the Food and Drug administration (FDA) to more effectively respond to food safety incidents in this nation.


Although the American food supply continues to be one of the safest in the world, our governing food safety authorities are outdated and must be strengthened to ensure the highest level of food safety standards, both for goods produced domestically and those imported from abroad. In addition, new mandatory food safety requirements are needed all along the food chain - from farm, harvest, processing, packing, distribution to retail outlet, and finally to consumers - to identify and prevent potential sources of food-borne illness.

Implementing the principles of risk assessment and risk management, our bipartisan bill will strengthen the relationship between federal and state agencies to better control food safety threats, filling the gaps in inter-agency communication, and reducing the time needed to identify and trace a contaminant. The bill requires all domestic and foreign food companies selling food in U.S. to conduct a food safety risk analysis that identifies potential sources of contamination, outline appropriate food safety controls, and require verification that the food safety controls implemented are adequate to address the risks of food-borne contamination.

To ensure that food products coming into the United States from international sources are safe, imported goods would have to adhere to the same safety and quality standards as set by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), documenting the food safety measures and controls for FDA review.

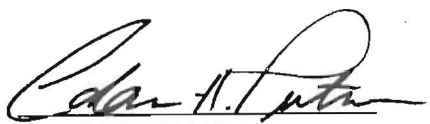
Finally, the bill would grant FDA authority to access food safety production records during emergencies and deny importation of goods if strict food safety standards are not met and directs the agency to adopt a risk-based approach to inspections, giving greater scrutiny to facilities posing greater risk.

Join us in protecting America's food supply by giving FDA the tools needed to prevent and more effectively respond to food safety incidents in our country. If you have any questions or would like to be an original co-sponsor, please contact Jacqlyn Schneider (x 5-3341) with Rep. Costa or Karen Williams (x 5-1252) with Rep. Putnam by COB, March 4, 2009.



JIM COSTA
Member of Congress

Sincerely,



ADAM PUTNAM
Member of Congress